

Conservation Commission minutes DRAFT until approved
Dec 3, 2018
5:30 PM, Town Office

Members present: Tom Deidel, Mike Dufilho, Brian Byrne, Bill Terry, Pam Smillie
Hank Benesh filmed. Susan Ross-Parent took notes.

Review Oct. Minutes - approved with spelling corrections.

Prospect Farm - no new business

Jackson Falls

-Review Falls site visit: Greg Howard, North Country Soil Services + Sean Sweeney,
Hydrologist asked Greg to look at area above bench

1. town keep check dams in working condition - and made suggestions for alternate drainage situations across Carter Notch Rd with a dry well and culvert on private property.
2. continue wood chips
3. main parking area culvert outlet into grassy area near handicap parking spt was dug up in a channel for repairs that has led to silting and that the outlet should be a fan and not a channel. This looks like new work since the replacement of the culvert last year by the state.
4. 3.75 hours for field visit and written report= \$380.00
motion to pay - approved.

Also - lowbush blueberry and other native plants \$650 a pallet (100 sq feet) includes delivery - pieces are 16x24 inch "tile" of plants.

Gray's Inn - no new business

Wetlands

- Read reports into record, no CC actions needed

1. approved bridge over brook on Eagle Mtn Rd. for landowner
2. lot off of Jxn Highlands - withdrew application because the land is unbuildable: the system worked - illegal fill was found while the rest is wetland.
3. wetlands restoration on Eagle Mtn - state requested plans and action by Oct.
4. culvert on Davis property - remediation of erosion through culvert

Discussion of water precinct work on lower Green Hill pipe to Red Fox going behind elec. station.

Conservation Easements

-annual monitoring: must be completed this month

Tom: went to CC conference - session on creating robust conservation easement monitoring - more than walking the boundaries but also interior and talking in person to landowners to keep communication open with owners as ownership changes. This is a more formal way for the town to go about it. Note to keep up on USVLT's list and description of easements.

Policy Updates

- legal assistance - Bill clarifies: any needs for legal assistance should go through the municipal legal services available to town commissions like CC and Selectboard. Send the request through the selectmen. This is to limit expense and is now in writing to assist in communicating with boards as members turn over.

Old Business:

Washington Boulder update: Bill and Mark visited the site where the neighboring landowners wants to clear near the boulder on town land. Mark and Bill found that the area had been clear cut and this new request to cut will clear the clear cut and take down 2 dead trees and one live one - actually beneficial to the town, especially if they can take out the buckthorn as they do it.

Public Comment / New Business

1. Mike - Tin Mtn hopes to set date for showing **Run Wild Run Free**: movie will be shown: would CC give the intro? Hoping for a showing and discussion. Get some of the original crew who worked on getting JXN into Wild and Scenic River act.
2. Mike suggests: a new focus of CC - promoting sustainability in JXN buildings for renewable energy (Concord and Hanover are doing this) Ex. Retrofitting for energy conservation and new energy initiatives for producing power (along with town building currently exploring getting solar panels) Is this the job of CC? Ans: to bring ideas and suggestions to selectboard - planning board also has to update the capital improvement plan, so this is can fit in. Tom suggests: talking to selectboard now to create a plan and CC could produce recommendations to planning board and educational tools for citizens. Not enough time to get a warrant article but suggests it's time to get a committee and a plan. Only 6 US towns are 100% sustainable. Others have pledged. Why not JXN? Irony discussion of anniversary of Wild and Scenic River Act and that Aspen, CO, got their certification with the aid of hydroelectric.

Adjourned 6:40 PM

(Margaret and Theodore are doing great. Tom is more tired than expected.)

As always, the public is encouraged to attend and share their vision for the use of Jackson town properties and other conservation priorities. Our meetings are typically at 5:30 PM at the town office building on the first Monday of each month.